

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03
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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:AWCOOLEY:LM
APPROVED BY EB/ORF:SBOSWORTH
ARA:RGARELLANO
ARA/ECP:JEO'MAHONY
ARA/AND:DSANDERS
EB/TRP:TO'DONNELL
-----125639 230917Z /21
R 222304Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETD, BC

SUBJECT: GOB REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SUGAR
SHIPMENT

REFS: A. LA PAZ 834, B. STATE 31292, C. LA PAZ 1203

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE
REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR A ONE-TIME SHIPMENT
OF 9,660 MT OF REFINED SUGAR REPORTED IN REF A BE GRANTED.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE DOCUMENT PROVIDED
BY THE CORPORATION BOLIVIANO DE FOMENTO (CBF) MENTIONED
IN REF A, PARA 4, WE FIND THAT WE WOULD IN ANY CASE BE
UNABLE TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST. AFTER EXAMINING
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FURTHER IMPORT INFORMATION, THE SITUATION OF BOLIVIA
APPEARS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF MALAWI. MALAWI ANTICI-
PATED ITS SHIPPING PROBLEM, DISCUSSED IT WITH THE
DEPARTMENT IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, AND WAS ABLE TO
GET AN EXCEPTION INCORPORATED INTO THE JANUARY 20
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION. AN EXCEPTION FOR BOLIVIA
WOULD REQUIRE A SPECIAL AND INDEPENDENT ACTION BY THE

PRESIDENT. THE MALAWI CASE INVOLVED RAW SUGAR; BOLIVIA'S INVOLVES REFINED, WHICH A LOOPHOLE IN THE NOVEMBER 11 PROCLAMATION ALLOWED TO ENTER AT A LARGE RELATIVE

RELATIVE TARIFF ADVANTAGE. FYI: IN DECEMBER THE US IMPORTED FROM BOLIVIA 5,948 MT (\$1.2 MILLION) OF REFINED (PORT OF SHIPMENT NOT SPECIFIED)--50 PERCENT OF THIS COUNTRY'S 1977 IMPORTS OF REFINED FROM BOLIVIA. SINCE WORLDWIDE IMPORTS OF REFINED INCREASED 68-FOLD IN DECEMBER AND BOLIVIA PARTICIPATED THEREIN, WE COULD NOT MAKE AN EFFECTIVE CASE FOR HAVING THE PRESIDENT ISSUE A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROCLAMATION TO HAVE THIS LATER BOLIVIAN SHIPMENT ALSO PROFIT FROM THE BONANZA. MOREOVER, ANY SUCH SPECIAL PROCLAMATION WOULD IMMEDIATELY LEAD OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE (MARTINIQUE) AND HONDURAS TO INTENSIFY THEIR OWN SO-FAR INFORMAL SPECIAL PLEADINGS.

3. YOU MAY WISH TO REMIND THE CBF THAT THE \$8.6 MILLION WORTH OF SUGAR LANDED IN THE US DURING 1977 CONTINUED TO BENEFIT FROM OUR GSP PROGRAM, WHICH IN THE FINAL MONTH ACCORDED IT A 2.7 CENT ADVANTAGE. VANCE

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